

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus connected to a plurality of information terminals by way of a network, comprising:

storing means for storing user information;

authenticating means for authenticating a user;

recording means for recording ~~a request information~~ one or more non-binding requests for an offer to sell goods transmitted by a first customer, the first customer ~~first user~~ authenticated by said authenticating means; ~~wherein said first user is a customer and said request information is a non-binding request for an offer to sell goods matching the request to said customer;~~

supplying means for supplying a service list of the non-binding requests ~~said request information~~ recorded by said recording means to a one or more shops, the shops being ~~second user~~ authenticated by said authenticating means ~~in response to a demand entered from said second user;~~

~~said recording means~~ for recording submitted offers to sell goods, the submitted offers ~~service information~~ transmitted by the shops ~~said second user~~ in response to the non-binding requests ~~the request information~~ in said service list; ~~wherein said second user is a shop and said service information is said offer;~~

searching means for searching for the submitted offers to sell goods ~~service information corresponding to said request information and said user information of said~~

~~second user recorded by said recording means, in response to a demand from the first customer for a request list from said first user; and~~

~~transferring means for transferring, to the first customer, a submitted requests list of the non-binding requests transmitted by the first customer; said request list to said first user.~~

~~wherein the searching means, in response to a demand from a second customer, allows the second customer to search the non-binding requests for an offer to sell goods submitted by the first customer.~~

2-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for processing information among a plurality of information terminals connected to a network, said method comprising the steps of:

storing user information for each of said information terminals;

authenticating a user based on said user information;

authenticating one or more shops;

recording one or more non-binding requests for an offer to sell goods ~~a request-~~
~~information transmitted by a first user~~ customer authenticated in said authenticating
step, ~~wherein said first user is a customer and said request information is a non-binding~~
~~request for an offer to sell goods matching the request to said customer;~~

supplying a service list of the non-binding requests ~~said request information~~
recorded in said recording step to the one or more shops ~~a second user authenticated~~
~~in said authenticating step in response to a demand entered from said second user;~~

recording submitted offers to sell goods ~~service information~~ transmitted by the
shops ~~said second user~~ in response to the non-binding requests ~~request information in~~
said service list; ~~wherein said second user is a shop and said service information is said~~
~~offer;~~

searching for the submitted offers to sell goods ~~service information~~
~~corresponding to said request information and said user information of the second user~~
recorded in response to a demand for a request list from the first customer ~~said first~~
user, and

transferring, to the first customer, a submitted requests list of the non-binding
requests transmitted by the first customer; and ~~said request list to said first user.~~

searching, in response to a demand from a second customer, the non-binding
requests for an offer to sell goods submitted by the first customer.

8-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the second customer can purchase goods using ~~request information~~
non-binding requests for an offer to sell goods from the first customer ~~other customers.~~

15. (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the user information includes a user ID, a password, and an electronic
mail address.

16. (Previously presented) The information processing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the authenticating means uses the user information stored in the
storing means to authenticate the user.

17. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the submitted offers include ~~service information given to a customer~~ ~~includes a direct~~ links link to web pages specified by the shops ~~the seller's service~~ information.

18. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the submitted requests ~~request list given~~ transferred to a the first customer indicates the availability of submitted offers corresponding to the non-binding requests ~~service information for a corresponding request information~~.

19. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the transferring means transfers the submitted requests list to the first ~~search results, including service information, to the~~ customer using electronic mail.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The information processing method according to claim 7, including a step where the second customer purchases goods using non-binding requests for an offer to sell goods ~~request information~~ from the first customer ~~other customers~~.

22. (Previously presented) The information processing method according to claim 7, wherein the user information includes a user ID, a password, and an electronic mail address.

23. (Previously presented) The information processing method according to claim 7, wherein the authenticating step is done using the user information stored during the storing step.

24. (Currently Amended) The information processing method according to claim 7, wherein the submitted offers include ~~recorded service information includes a direct links link to web pages specified by the shops the seller's service information.~~

25. (Currently Amended) The information processing method according to claim 7, wherein the ~~request~~ submitted requests list of non-binding requests ~~given to a transferred to the first customer indicates the availability of submitted offers corresponding to the non-binding requests service information for a corresponding request information.~~

26. (Currently Amended) The information processing method according to claim 7, wherein the step of transferring the submitted requests list ~~request list~~ to the first customer is done by electronic mail.

27. (New) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the submitted offers indicate whether the corresponding shop has the goods in stock.

28. (New) The method for processing information according to claim 7, wherein the submitted offers indicate whether the corresponding shop has the goods in stock.